

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the thermal purification of an oxygen-containing or ~~non-oxygen-containing~~ ~~on-oxygen-containing~~ exhaust gas which contains organosilicon compounds, the exhaust gas being preheated ~~in a regenerative manner in at least one regenerator~~ by means of a heat storage material, at least a part of the heat storage material being a bed, comprising the steps of characterized in that it comprises:

removal of the heat storage material from said regenerator after adhesions are formed on said heat storage material from oxidation of said organosilicon compound;

[[.]] purification of the heat storage material by removing adhesions from said heat storage material; and

re-introduction of the heat storage material into the regenerator to refill the bed for retaining oxidation products of bed for removal of the adhesions formed by the oxidation of the organosilicon compounds in the form of adhesions on the heat storage material.

2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the steps of characterized in that the removal, purification and re-introduction of the heat storage material ~~bed~~ is effected automatically or semiautomatically.

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the regenerative preheating and cooling, and the oxidation of the exhaust gas, are effected within a regenerator ~~bed~~ which is operated alternately with upward and downward flow.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of performing characterized in that a flushing cycle with intermediate storage of the

exhaust gas is ~~furthermore effected~~.

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one regenerator includes two or more regenerators each with ~~characterized in that two or more regenerator beds which are connected to a combustion space and through which flow takes place alternately, each of said two or more regenerators are used and in each case are equipped with an apparatus for removal and re-introduction of the heat storage material after purification using, which are connected to a separation apparatus.~~

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one regenerator includes two or more regenerators, and wherein said steps of ~~+~~ characterized in that the automated removal, purification and re-introduction of the heat storage material using an apparatus is effected at successive times in the individual regenerators of said two or more regenerators.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting a pressure drop across said bed of said heat storage material and purifying said ~~characterized in that the heat storage material is purified after a maximum permissible pressure drop of the plant is exceeded.~~

8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the heat storage material is purified after certain time intervals.~~

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of removal removes only partly said heat storage ~~characterized in that the bed material is removed not completely but only partly.~~

11. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in
~~that~~ the preheating is brought about not completely in a regenerative manner but
partly by another route.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at
least a portion of the additionally required energy for thermal purification of said
oxygen-containing or non-oxygen-containing exhaust gas is introduced with the aid of
admixing of natural gas into the exhaust gas, electrically, via a burner or by gas
injection.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in
~~that the~~ heat storage bed material which forms the bed consists of solid or hollow
spheres.

16. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one
regenerator includes ~~characterized in that it contains two or more regenerators, each~~
~~of which in each case~~ have a discharge, and this discharge being connected to a
separation apparatus.

17. (Canceled)